

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Trojan on 4/8/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In independent claim 1, line 4, insert --a-- after "ejecting".

In independent claim 1, line 7, insert --an external-- after "mounted on" and insert --direct-- after "body for".

In independent claim 1, line 14, insert --of the igniting lever-- after "lock".

In independent claim 1, line 18, insert --wherein the igniting lever is free to affect the igniting action only when the rod-like extension is in the locked state--.

In independent claim 6, line 6, insert --an external-- after "mounted on" and insert --direct-- after "body for".

In independent claim 6, line 11, remove "thereof" and insert --of the base portion of the rod-like extension-- after "ring portion".

In independent claim 6, line 12, remove "therebetween" and insert --between the weights and said flame port of the rod-like extension-- after "extension intervening".

In independent claim 6, line 13, remove "held horizontal" and insert-- rotationally balanced-- after "extension is" and insert --wherein the lock lever is capable of engaging the base portion of the rod-like extension to interfere with rotation at any angle between a minimum and maximum angle of rotation of the rod-like extension-- after "in a free state".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The invention, "Ignitor" is in the field of handheld lighters using a gas reservoir with a rotatable flame port. The invention is an igniter with a body, the body has a liquefied gas reservoir located in the body, a rod-like extension rotatable about a ring portion of the lighter body. Rotation occurs due to the lock lever being in a first position to prevent ignition, while balance of the rod-like extension is maintained by oppositely opposed weights located in the ring portion of the light body in a free state. A user can select an angle of operation, depending on their need for ignition. After the desired location is set, the user shifts the lock lever in a second position to lock the rod-like extension in place to activate ignition. Prior art in the field of invention are U.S. Patent 6488482 to Adams et al, U.S. Patent 6093017 to Saito et al, and U.S. Patent 6505142 to Inoue et al. Adams shows a handheld lighter with a rotatable rod-like extension and a lock lever. Saito shows a handheld lighter that has a safety switch that prevents ignition when a lock is in a first position, and allows ignition when the safety switch is in a second position. Inoue shows a device using oppositely opposed weights to keep an element in a single position in a rotatable free state. The prior art, alone or in combination, do not

show a handheld lighter that uses a lock lever through direct operation by a user to engage a surface of rotation of a rod-like extension when a user desires to ignite the lighter when the lock lever is in a first position, wherein the prior art also does not show a rod-like extension capable of free rotation when a lock lever is in another position wherein this position also prevents ignition of the lighter, wherein the rod-like extension is rotationally balanced due to oppositely opposed weights located in a ring portion of the lighter body. For these reasons, the invention is unique and patentably distinct from the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AVINASH SAVANI whose telephone number is (571)270-3762. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday, alternate Fridays off, 7:30-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven McAllister can be reached on 571-272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Avinash Savani/
Examiner, Art Unit 3749

/Steven B. McAllister/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3749

/A. S./
4/8/2010